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Department of Health and Family Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING

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October 31, 2003

Dear Mental Health Consumer:

We are having the initial meeting of the expanded Medicaid Prescription Drug Prior Authorization Committee on Wednesday, November 5th, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this initial meeting is for the Department to explain what it is proposing in the area of prior authorization for anti-depressant medications and to hear from consumers regarding your concerns and recommendations. This will be the first of several meetings on this topic, so there will be further opportunities for consumer input.

We welcome your participation in the Committee's review and encourage you to share your concerns and recommendations, including specific additional clinical criteria that the Committee and Department should consider in its prior authorization decision algorithm. Comments and recommendations about the prior authorization process itself are also welcome.

In the interests of allowing everyone present to speak, we respectfully ask that consumer input be limited to the topic of prior authorization for SSRIs, the only topic before the Committee at this time.

If you have written statements or other research or evidence you wish the Committee to consider, we will be pleased to accept it and make it part of the record. We ask, however, that verbal testimony be relatively brief so that all who wish, have an opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Moody
Administrator

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